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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/939,363	08/24/2001	John Reiner	CL1	3442

26841 7590 08/25/2003

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EXAMINER

BUTLER, DOUGLAS C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3683

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



09/939363
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/11/03

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three (3) month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 9-15, 17-24 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) 9-15, 17-18 is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 19-24 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

PART III

1. The amendment filed June 11, 2003 has been entered.
2. Claims 9-15 and 17-18 are allowed.
3. Claims 1-8 and 16 have been canceled.
4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 19-20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson, Jr. (5161579) in view of Long, Jr. (3120962), both of record.

Anderson, Jr. discloses air valve 10, air spring 2, rod 4, axle support 3 and actuator in the vicinity of 45 (Fig. 3).

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Anderson discloses a manual control 9 connected to the actuator but does not disclose that the manual control 9 is a switch.

It would have been obvious to replace the manual switch of Anderson with a control switch similar to 109 of Long, Jr. since such modification involves replacing one well known type of control with an equivalent control.

7. Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson, Jr. in views of Long, Jr. as modified above further in view of GB2136141 to Strange, newly cited.

Although Anderson, Jr., lack the indicating device/switch of instant claims 21-23, it would have been obvious to provide Anderson, Jr. as modified, with an indicating or display for indicating the condition of the assembly as taught by GB2136141 to Strange. Note visual display and switch arrangement G, F, E, etc. of GB2136141.

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 19-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Exmr. Butler whose telephone number is (703) 308-2575. The examiner is normally in the USPTO Monday-Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. Although the examiner may not always be present in his office to immediately answer the phone when called, the examiner will make every effort to return the call as soon as possible. If the examiner does not answer his phone, the examiner suggests that a brief message be recorded on the examiner's voice mail machine when

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necessary and appropriate. The examiner normally checks records phone calls at least once a day unless on leave.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9326.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.



DOUGLAS C. BUTLER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

8/26/03

AU 3683

Butler/kn
August 26, 2003